



14th Annual OSC Readiness Training Program

Communications

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Version
OSC 2011

Are Waste Fires Common...

- Yes, However
- Part of the waste business
- Most are operational fires (15 min to 1 hr)
- Majority are surface fires
 - The fire commonly occur in Transfer Stations, compost facilities, and at working faces of LF
- 80-90% waste fires at LF are not reported
- Approximately one major tire fire per year

Statistics

- 1,754 landfills in U.S. as of 2006
- ~8,400 dump or sanitary landfill fires reported in U.S. each year according to National Fire Incident Records
- 1 in 200 fires escalates to a major incident
 - 42 major incidents per year?
- Probability of small fire better than 50%
- Probability of major fire estimated at 0.5%

How Many?

- Data is limited throughout US
- Google™ Alert
 - Used Landfill, Underground, Compost, Debris, Subsurface, and Tire Fires
 - 291 events since January 3, 2007
 - 145 events per year?
 - Found significant events even in California that were not reported

Concerned?

- Health and safety issues (FF and OP)
- Public/Community safety
- Production of unsafe levels of carbon monoxide and **toxic** gasses
- Dangerous subsurface conditions (e.g., voids and elevated temperatures)
- Damage to environmental control systems
- Suppression Costs
 - Delta Shake \$4.0M, Westley \$3.5M, Fresno \$1.7M

Why significant fires?

- Lack of Pre-Plans
- Lack of Training
- Lack of Resources
- Command and Control Issues
- Illegal Storage or Dumping



Fire Problems with Landfills

- Typical Transfer Station and/or LF
 - No Pre-Plan – Call 911 does not count
 - Lack of equip. (CO monitors)
 - Operators not fit tested
 - No communications with FD

Fire Problems at Landfills

- Typical Fire Department
 - Little knowledge on LF operations
 - Site knowledge limited
 - Lack of equip. (CO monitors)
 - No heavy equipment
 - No communications with the LF
 - Pre plans are limited

Fire Issues Regulatory Agencies

- Typical local health, environment, and State
 - Little knowledge of what it takes to suppress a fire
 - No communication
 - Responding as a regulator not as a responder



Beyond Operational Fires

- Who is in charge?
 - Classic Issue
- Fire Department Right?
- Not always
- Does the Fire Department want the liability?

Private Property

- What authority do you have?
 - Not a crime scene
 - No threat to surrounding property
 - Fire is being handled by the industry
- Number of fires in California where the Fire Department has been denied access

Liability

- Northern CA Fire Department was billed for the contaminated water they generated during the suppression (\$300,000)
- Southern CA Department lost \$610,000 in suppression costs due to enforcement issues

Landfill Fire Issues

- You have a mix of LF operators and FF that rarely training or know what issues exist during a major event
- You are using heavy equipment and fire resources together w/o proper communication or PPE
- You may not know the hazards present (e.g. Leachate sumps, GCS)

The Fix

- Pre Plan
- Train
- Request Resources
- Establish UC when appropriate



You have a significant fire

- Define significant
 - black cloud, additional resources needed, damage to envir. control systems, press inquiries
- Notification per your pre-plan
 - Levels
 - a. Local fire and health
 - b. Local fire, hazmat and police, health, State
 - c. Local fire, hazmat and police, health, State, US EPA, community groups, etc.

Pre Plan

- Must Consider
 - Location of Facility
 - Location of Population
 - Available H₂O and Foam
 - Available Resources (HE)
 - Available Agencies
 - Environmental Impacts
 - Air Emissions
 - Funding
 - Evacuation (Red Cross)



Available Resources

- Fire Department
- Other Landfills
- Local and State Health Department
- State EPA
- US EPA
- Private FF companies
- Private Consultants

Resource List

- Per you Pre Plan!
 - Contacts numbers, emergency notifications, fire, environmental agencies, press, etc.



Communications

- Paramount to an incident
 - Establish on-site and off-site communications
 - Critical to employee safety and the welfare of the community
 - Success is dependent on communications



On-site Communication

- Need to establish communications among resources

- Can FF communicate with heavy equipment?

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On-site Communication

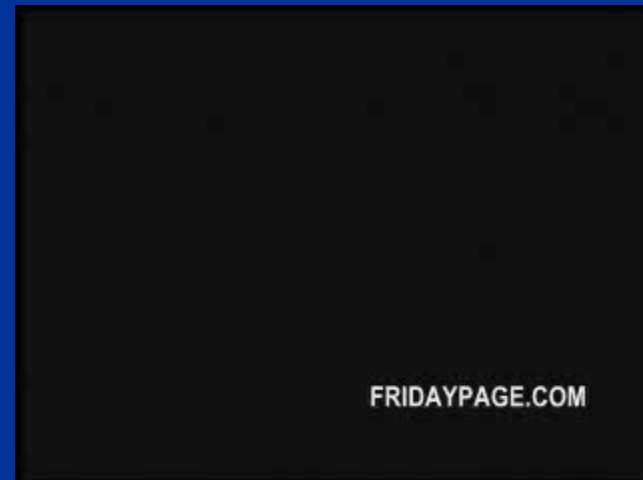
- Objectives and goal should be communicated thru incident command
- At a min, conduct a safety meeting before work
- Large scale incident – two meeting, morning safety and afternoon debriefing
- All supervisors and team leaders should attend

How to Communicate the Plan?



Incident Action Plan

Video



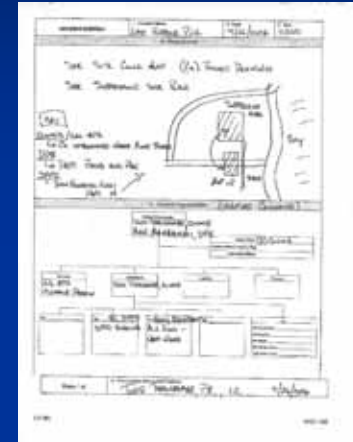
IAP



- Incident Action Plan
 - Incident Command System Forms
 - http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/ICSResource/ICSResCntr_Forms.htm
- Excellent format for incident briefing, incident objectives, organizational assignments, radio communications plan, medical plan, organization chart, safety plan, etc
- Can range from simple to complex

IAP Examples

- GOH – Fresno Debris Fire
- Last Rubble Pile – SF Landfill Fire



Off-Site Communication

- Manage the Public Relations
 - The Press will FIND a story
 - Better to work with then against
- Establish an Incident Command Post
 - Needs to be located a safe distance from the incident and UPWIND. Be prepared to move!
 - Press will go to the ICP



Managing PR

- All communication go thru the PIO
 - All questions/issues get forwarded to the PIO
 - Work with the local media
 - Issue press releases. Be Honest!
- Provide Security
 - Control Site Access
 - If not, the Press and Public will just show UP!
- Establish Joint Information Center on large fires
 - All agencies, contractors, landfill reps speak with one voice thru the JIC

MARKS-NIELSON INCIDENT
CA FRN AB3164
Effective 1-18-03

Unified Command

UNIFIED COMMAND
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TIM CASAGRANDE, FRESNO COUNTY
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SAFETY
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**ASST. SAFETY
SITE**
DUNCAN McANDREWS

**OFF-SITE AIR
MONITORING COORD.**
TREVOR ANDERSON

**COMM UNIT
LEADER**
CDF TBD

**ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUP**
MARTY SMITH

**FIRE CONTROL
GROUP**
FRN DIVS TBD

SITUATION UNIT LEADER
CDF TBD

SUPPLY UNIT LEADER
CDF TBD

**ON-SITE AIR
MONITORING**
CINDY McLEOD

**HEAVY
EQUIPMENT**

MED UNIT LEADER
FRESNO EMS TBD

DECON
EPA TBD

**FIRE
SUPPRESSION**

FACILITIES
CDF TBD

**WATER CONTROL
TECH. SPECIALIST**
DALE ESSARY

PR Management

Video

